

November election, 1915, adding Article XVI to the Constitution, known as the Referendum (Acts 1914, Chapter 673), upon the time when laws passed by the Legislature become effective.

All laws now take effect in accordance with the provisions of this Constitutional Amendment, and not as formerly, in accordance with Article III, Section 31 of the Constitution.

The effect of this Constitutional Amendment is that "no law enacted by the General Assembly shall take effect until the first day of June next, after the session at which it may be passed," unless:

(1) "It contain a section declaring such law an emergency law and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, and passed upon a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly."

(2) Or unless it be a "law making any appropriation for maintaining the State government."

(3) Or unless it be an appropriation law "for maintaining or aiding any public institution, not exceeding the next previous appropriation for the same purpose."

(4) Or unless it be a law "licensing, regulating, prohibiting, or referring to local option the manufacture or sale of malt or spirituous liquors."

Any law which falls within any one of the first three of these four classes can be made effective at once by the insertion of the usual clause: "This Act shall take effect from the date of its passage." I do not, however, wish to be understood at this time as expressing any opinion upon the question of whether the declaration of three-fifths of the membership of the Legislature that a law is "an emergency law and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety," will be final and conclusive upon that question or not, first, because this might depend very largely upon the nature of the particular law in question, and, secondly, because I assume that the Legislature would not make such a declaration unless in its judgment it conformed to the facts. Any law of this character which is made effective at once would, nevertheless, still be subject to reference to the people in accordance with the terms of the Constitutional Amendment.

Any law embraced within the second or third of the above classes can, in my judgment, be made effective at once by the